

## **AMENDMENTS**

Please cancel claims 1-21, and 27-29 without prejudice. Also, please amend claims 22, 26, 30, 31 and 32, and add claims 33-38, all as indicated below in the following detailed listing of claims.

Claims 1-21 (canceled).

**Claim 22 (currently amended).** A media dispensing apparatus, comprising:

a media support device adapted to support a stack of media sheets thereon;  
a picking device adapted to dispense individual media sheets from the stack  
in succession;

a counting device adapted to detect count data indicative of how many media sheets are dispensed from the stack of media sheets during a given time period;

a measuring device adapted to detect measurement data indicative of measure a quantitative characteristic of the stack;

a processor in data-communicative linkage with both the counting device and the measuring device;

a computer readable memory device; and

a set of computer executable instructions operatively resident within the memory device and executable by the processor, the set of computer executable instructions adapted to cause the processor to compute:

a plurality of ratios, wherein each ratio is a ratio of a respective change in the quantitative characteristic to a respective corresponding number of media sheets dispensed from the stack: and.

an estimated number of media sheets remaining in the stack based on the ratio count data and the measurement data.

**Claim 23 (original).** The apparatus of claim 22, and wherein the counting device is a top-of-form sensor.

**Claim 24 (original).** The apparatus of claim 22, and wherein the measuring device is adapted to substantially detect a weight of the stack.

1 Claim 25 (original). The apparatus of claim 22, and wherein the measuring device is  
2 adapted to substantially detect a thickness of the stack.

3 Claim 26 (currently amended). The apparatus of claim 22, and wherein:  
4 the stack has a top and an opposite bottom;  
5 ~~the picking device comprises a pick roller adapted to dispense individual media~~  
6 ~~sheets from the stack top, wherein such dispensing of media sheets depletes the stack;~~  
7 ~~the media support device comprises a lift mechanism adapted to lift the stack~~  
bottom toward the pick roller as the stack is depleted; and,  
8 the measuring device is adapted to substantially detect a position of the stack  
9 bottom relative to the ~~top~~pick roller.

10 Claim 27-29 (canceled).

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12 Claim 30 (currently amended). The apparatus of claim 29, and wherein the set of  
13 computer executable instructions is further adapted to cause the processor to calculate a  
14 mean value for the plurality of ratios, wherein the estimated number of media sheets  
remaining in the stack is based on the mean value.

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16 Claim 31 (currently amended). The apparatus of claim 29, and wherein the set of  
17 computer executable instructions is further adapted to cause the processor to calculate a  
18 median value for the plurality of ratios, wherein the estimated number of media sheets  
remaining in the stack is based on the median value.

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25 (Continued on next page.)

1 Claim 32 (currently amended). ~~A media dispensing~~An apparatus, comprising:  
2 ~~a means for supporting a stack of media sheets;~~  
3 ~~a means for dispensing individual media sheets from the~~a stack of media sheets  
in succession;  
4 ~~a means for generating count data indicative of~~counting how many media sheets  
5 ~~are dispensed from the stack during a given time period;~~  
6 ~~a means for generating measurement data indicative of~~measuring a quantitative  
characteristic of the stack; and,  
7 a means for computing:  
8 a plurality of ratios, wherein each ratio is a ratio of a respective change in  
9 the quantitative characteristic to a respective corresponding number of media  
10 sheets dispensed from the stack; and,  
11 ~~an estimated number of media sheets remaining in the stack based on the~~  
~~ratios~~~~both the count data and the measurement data.~~

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13 Claim 33 (new). An apparatus for estimating the number of media sheets remaining in a  
stack, comprising:

14 a computer readable memory device; and,  
15 a set of computer executable instructions operatively resident on the memory  
device, the instructions adapted to compute:  
16  
17 a plurality of ratios, wherein each ratio is a ratio of a respective change in  
a quantitative characteristic of the stack to a respective corresponding number of  
media sheets dispensed from the stack;  
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19 a value selected from the group consisting of a mean value for the plurality  
of ratios and a median value for the plurality of ratios; and,  
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21 an estimated number of media sheets remaining in the stack based on  
the value.

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23 34 (new). The apparatus of claim 33, wherein:

24 the set of computer executable instructions is further adapted to detect that a new  
stack has been formed; and,  
25 each of the plurality of ratios is computed in response to detecting that the new a  
new stack has been formed.

1       35 (new). The apparatus of claim 34, further comprising a counting device configured to  
2       count media sheets dispensed from the stack.

3       36 (new). The apparatus of claim 34, further comprising a measuring device adapted to  
4       substantially weigh the stack.

5       37 (new). The apparatus of claim 34, further comprising a measuring device adapted to  
6       substantially measure a thickness of the stack.

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8       38 (new). The apparatus of claim 34, further comprising a picking device adapted to  
9       dispense individual media sheets from the stack.

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